Pre-arrival Pocket Guide for Summer Program 2018

OKAYAMA UNIVERSITY
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Okayama City

- The capital city of Okayama Prefecture in the Chugoku region of Japan.
- Population (as of May 2017): 720,837
- Climate:
  Okayama has a mild climate in comparison to most of Japan. It is ranked as the 2nd driest as well as sunniest city in the Chugoku region.

http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/eng/about_okayama_university/About_Okayama.html

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<th>Month</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Avg High</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg Low</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
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- Transportation
  A. Bicycle; Since Okayama University is located in a flat area, bicycles are the most popular means of transportation among students.
  B. Bus Services; There are frequent bus services between Okayama University and Okayama station/downtown Okayama.
    More lines are available from Okayama station to many parts of Okayama as well as to other prefectures (even as far as Tokyo!)
  C. Local Train and Shinkansen; Okayama is a major stop on the Sanyo Shinkansen route. All Shinkansen trains stop at Okayama and some even start or terminate here. The local train services are also available and are conveniently connected to many parts of west Japan.

Okayama University

- Okayama University is one of the largest universities in Japan. It has six campuses. The main Tsushima Campus is located in the suburban area of Okayama city.
- The school was founded in 1870 and it was established as a university in 1949.
- The number of students; approximately 13,000 including about 690 international students from 47 countries.

http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/index_e.html
Access Information

Please see the information below about domestic transportation from Tokyo (Narita) Airport and Kansai International Airport to Okayama.

Access from Narita Airport

Taking a Domestic Flight
There is no direct flight service from Narita to Okayama. If you want to take a domestic flight from Tokyo, you have to go to Haneda (Tokyo) Airport which is approximately 75 minutes’ bus ride from Narita Airport. (one way fare: ¥3,100) Flights from Haneda to Okayama take about 70 minutes. (Regarding air fare from Tokyo to Okayama, please check with your airline company.)

Taking a Shinkansen (bullet train)
You can take the Narita Express from the airport to Tokyo station which takes about 1 hour. (one way fare: ¥3,020) Or Limousine bus service is available, which might take almost 2 hours depending on the traffic. (one way fare: ¥3,100) There are frequent Shinkansen services to Okayama from Tokyo station and it takes about 3 hours and a half by a super express “Nozomi”. (one way fare: ¥16,300)

Access from Kansai Airport

Taking a Limousine Bus
There is direct Limousine Bus Service to Okayama station which takes about 3 hours and a half (¥4,650).

Taking a Shinkansen (bullet train)
Take the JR Haruka Express from Kansai Airport to Shin-Osaka station (50 min). There are frequent Shinkansen services to Okayama station, which takes about 45 minutes by Super Express "Nozomi". (for both Haruka and Nozomi one way fare: ¥7,180)

Please see the information below about the transportations from Okayama Airport and Okayama station to Okayama University.

Access from Okayama Airport

Limousine bus: Limousine bus services are available from the airport to Okayama station. (one way fare: ¥760) Here is the time table of the limousine services:

Taxi: From the airport to Tsushima Campus or Royal Hotel, it costs approximately ¥5,000.

Access from Okayama Station

Taxi: There are several taxis waiting at the West Exit.

Taxi fare to Royal Hotel is approximately ¥800 and to Tsushima Campus is approximately ¥1,500.

Bus: There are frequent bus services from Okayama station to Royal Hotel and Tsushima campus.

★Please note that all the transportation fees are subject to change.
Hotel Information

Okayama Royal Hotel (upon arrival)

2-4, Ezu-cho, Kita-ku, Okayama-city, Okayama 700-0028
TEL: +81-86-255-1111
http://www.orh.co.jp/room/ (Japanese only)

Access to the hotel
http://www.orh.co.jp/access/ (Japanese only)

From: Okayama Airport
Limousine bus services are available from the airport to Okayama station. (one way fare: ¥760)
Taxi fare to Royal Hotel is approximately ¥5,000

From: Okayama station
There are several taxis waiting at West exit. Taxi fare to Royal Hotel is approximately ¥800

*On July 2, 2018: Meet at the hotel Lobby 8:40AM.
Our university staff will be waiting for you!! Walk to Okayama University together!!*

Kurashiki Station Hotel (Only for July 7, 2018)

2-8-1, Achi, Kurashiki-city, Okayama 710-0055
TEL: +81-86-425-2525
https://www.kurashiki-sh.co.jp/english/index.html (English)

Articles Prohibited by Japanese Customs

● Main Items Prohibited from Importation
Opium, cocaine, heroin hemp, stimulant drugs, psychotropic substances
Pistols and other firearms, ammunition for firearms
Explosives (dynamite, gunpowder, etc.)
Material staple for chemical weapons
Obscene or immoral magazines, videotapes, etc.
Counterfeit brand name products, other articles that infringe upon intellectual property rights, etc.
Child pornography

● Main Items Restricted from Importation
Animals and plants that require quarantine (Please undergo inspection at the "Animal and Plant Quarantine Counter")
Air guns, swords, smoke bombs, etc.
Bulk pharmaceutical products or cosmetics
Animals and plants stipulated by the CITES (the Washington Treaty)
**Others**

**Notebook computer, Cell-phone/smart phone**
We recommend you to bring notebook computer and cell-phone/smart phone with you. We will provide Wi-Fi connection on campus so that you can access resources on the internet. If you will be worried about roaming fees for your cell-phone/ smart phone, you can just connect to Wi-Fi so that you do not have to worry about roaming fees.

**Travel insurance**
We must emphasize again that "you are required to purchase your own overseas travel insurance" prior to coming to Japan. Also do not forget to bring any medicine you may require.

**Currency**
Please be aware that the types of foreign currency that can be exchanged in Okayama are limited. For this reason, it is a good idea to bring any funds you plan to exchange while in Okayama in a major currency. It is also a good idea to exchange currency in advance in your home country or at the international airport when you first enter Japan (Haneda Tokyo Airport, Narita Airport, or Kansai Airport) since they have more currencies available. Please contact us if you have any questions.

or if you carry international credit card which can withdrawals money via international ATM service, you might be able to withdrawals money via JP post bank ATM nearby. It might charge extra withdrawals fee. Please kindly visit URL below for details.


For daily expense, it will cost 500-1,000 JPY for each meal.
We have on campus cafeteria which will provide various meal including some Halal food menu with cheaper price. On campus convenience store is also available.

Please note local small shops/restaurant will not accept credit card/ Debit card or mobile payment. (cash only)

**Scholarship (JASSO and Others)**
Student who has been selected as a JASSO Scholarship recipient will receive scholarship (80,000JPY) earlier on the second week of July after your attendance is confirmed.
We recommend you to bring enough cash for the 1st week of your stay.

Student who will receive other scholarship, please ask details for the organization you applied.

**What to wear**
Please bring clothing and shoes that will be comfortable for both classroom and outdoor activities. Since we are now in the rainy season you may find that carrying a small towel and folding umbrella is helpful.

Here is the link that will give you an idea about the weather in Okayama

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